

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-7. (Cancel)

8. (New) A product and package combination in which a significant portion of the package is sufficiently water soluble that the package can be disintegrated by exposure to water to allow access to the product.

9. (New) The product and package combination of claim 8 wherein the product is a product used in the vicinity of an aqueous medium.

10. (New) The product and package combination of claim 9 wherein the product is a cleaning product.

11. (New) The product and package combination of claim 10 wherein the product is a laundry, kitchen or bathroom cleaning product.

12. (New) The product and package combination of claim 8 wherein the package is for use in at least partial contact with an aqueous medium.

13. (New) The product and package combination of claim 12 wherein the package is for use in at least partial immersion in an aqueous medium.

14. (New) The product and package combination of claim 12 wherein the product is delivered to the aqueous medium by dissolving at least part of the package.

15. (New) A package comprising a backing sheet adhered to a blister in which at least one or both of the backing sheet and the blister is made from a transparent water soluble thermoformable polymer composition.

16. (New) A package as claimed in claim 15 consisting of a backing sheet of cardboard, paper or plastic and the blister is made from a transparent water soluble thermoformable polymer composition.

17. (New) A package as claimed in claim 15 in which the adhesion between the backing sheet and the blister is achieved by wetting the blister with water.

18. (New) A package as claimed in claim 15 in which the water soluble polymer is partially coated with a water insoluble coating to expose a portion of the water soluble polymer for easy opening of the package.

19. (New) A package as claimed in claim 15 in which the water soluble polymer is selected from water soluble starch or modified starch polymers, water soluble polyesters or polyvinyl alcohol or blends of these polymers with natural polymers such as starch or modified starch.

20. (New) A package as claimed in claim 15 in which the water soluble packaging material comprises:

- a) from 8 to 95% by weight of a modified starch preferably starch modified to include an hydroxyalkyl C₂₋₆ group or modified by reaction with an anhydride of a dicarboxylic acid;
- b) from 0 to 80% of starch; and
- c) from 0.5 to 20% by weight of a water soluble polymer selected from polyesters, polyvinylacetate, polyvinyl alcohol and copolymers of ethylene and vinylalcohol which have a melting point compatible with the molten state of the starch components.

21. (New) Water soluble packaging comprising:

- a) from 8 to 95% by weight of a modified starch preferably starch modified to include an hydroxyalkyl C₂₋₆ group or modified by reaction with an anhydride of a dicarboxylic acid;
- b) from 0 to 80% of starch; and

c) from 0.5 to 20% by weight of a water soluble polymer selected from polyesters, polyvinylacetate, polyvinyl alcohol and copolymers of ethylene and vinylalcohol which have a melting point compatible with the molten state of the starch components.

22. (New) The water soluble packaging of claim 21 further comprising:

- a) from 0 to 20% by weight of a polyol plasticizer;
- b) from 0 to 1.5% by weight of a C₁₂₋₂₂ fatty acid or salt; and
- c) from 0 to 15% by weight of added water.

23. (New) The water soluble packaging of claim 21 wherein the packaging is a container.

24. (New) The water soluble packaging of claim 23 wherein the container is rigid.

25. (New) The water soluble packaging of claim 23 wherein the container is a sealed container.

26. (New) The water soluble packaging of claim 23 wherein the packaging encloses a product.

27. (New) The water soluble packaging of claim 26 wherein the product is a product used in the vicinity of aqueous medium.

28. (New) The water soluble packaging of claim 27 wherein the product is a cleaning product.

29. (New) The water soluble packaging of claim 27 wherein the product is a laundry, kitchen or bathroom cleaning product.

30. (New) The water soluble packaging of claim 21 wherein the packaging is for use in at least partial contact with an aqueous medium.

31. (New) The water soluble packaging of claim 30 wherein the packaging is for use in at least partial immersion in an aqueous medium.

32. (New) The water soluble packaging of claim 30 wherein the product is delivered to the aqueous medium by dissolving at least part of the packaging.

33. (New) The water soluble packaging of claim 32 wherein the product is delivered to the aqueous medium by dissolving all of the packaging.

34. (New) The water soluble packaging of claim 21 wherein at least part of the packaging is coated with a water insoluble coating.

35. (New) A packaged product comprising a product enclosed in packaging wherein at least part of the packaging is the water soluble packaging of claim 21.

36. (New) The packaged product of claim 35 wherein the product is delivered to an aqueous medium by dissolving at least part of the packaging.

37. (New) A process for forming water soluble packaging including the steps of:

- a) forming a mixture of the components of claim 21;
- b) working the mixture and forming a melt within the temperature range of 130°C to 160°C; and
- c) reducing the temperature and further working the mixture and then forming the packaging.

38. (New) A process for forming water soluble packaging including the steps of:

- a) forming a mixture of the components of claim 22;
- b) working the mixture and forming a melt within the temperature range of 130°C to 160°C; and
- c) reducing the temperature and further working the mixture and then forming the packaging.

39. (New) The process of claim 37 wherein the packaging is formed by thermoforming.

40. (New) The process of claim 37 wherein the packaging is formed by extruding the mixture into a sheet and thermoforming the sheet.

41. (New) The process of claim 37 wherein the packaging is formed by extrusion.

42. (New) The process of claim 37 wherein the packaging is formed by injection moulding.

43. (New) The process of claim 37 wherein the packaging is formed by blow moulding.

44. (New) The process of claim 37 wherein the packaging is a container.

45. (New) The process of claim 44 wherein the container is a rigid container.

46. (New) The process of claim 44 wherein the container is a sealed container.

47. (New) The process of claim 37 wherein the packaging comprises a film.

48. (New) A process for the manufacture of a packaged product comprising the steps of:

- a) forming packaging according to the process of claim 37;
- b) at least partially filling the packaging with the product; and
- c) closing the packaging.

49. (New) The process of claim 48 wherein the packaging is closed by hot or cold sealing.

50. (New) A process for exposing a product to aqueous medium by locating a packaged product formed by the process of claim 48 in the vicinity of an aqueous medium such that the aqueous medium dissolves at least part of the packaging.